

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 12, 2003, these claims are rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Helm (U.S. 4,512,828).

The rejection is similar to the previous rejection, except that the Office Action now alleges that the guide rail 34 of Helm is considered as a base plate and that the rail 186 is considered to be a guide rail attached to the base plate.

A study of the Helm reference shows otherwise. The proposed interpretation of the Helm reference is not a reasonable one, and appears to be a misreading of the disclosure in an attempt to reject Applicants' claims.

If, as suggested in the office Action, item 34 is to be designated a base plate and item 186 is to be designated a guide rail, the structure of Applicants' claims is not found or suggested. For example, there is no guide rail attached to said base plate extending in a longitudinal direction of said wire harness as required in Applicants' claims. The rigid support rods 186 of Helm are supported by extending through apertures disposed in the support plates 96 and 98 of the clamping mechanisms 54 and 56 (Col. 6, lines 61-64).

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The proposed interpretation of the Helm reference in the Office Action is a tortuous interpretation. Helm specifically identifies item 34 as a horizontal guide rail and item 186 as a rigid support rod. Redefining this as attempted in the Office Action completely redesigns the Helm structure.

Applicants' claims specifically call for a base plate and guide rail that is "attached to said base plate extending in a longitudinal direction of said wire harness". The Helm reference is completely devoid of such a feature and the Helm structure would have to be reconstructed to even approach such an arrangement. For at least this reason, Applicants' claims 7-9 are distinct from the Helm teachings and believed to be patentable.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants' claims are deemed allowable as now presented and early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

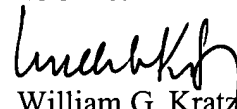
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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